

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION



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June 25, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Public Notice – Office of Engineering and Technology Request Information on Use  
of 1675-1710 MHz Band. ET Docket No. 10-123.

Dear Madame Secretary:

The Montana Department of the Natural Resources & Conservation urges the Federal Communications Commission to carefully analyze potential impacts to current users of the 1675-1710 MHz band before opening this portion of the spectrum to commercial wireless broadband services providers. As the entity of state government with responsibility to manage Montana's natural resources, we are concerned that the proposed changes may have a negative impact on our ability to access real-time environmental and weather data transmitted by the GOES satellite in the 1675-1710 MHz band.

The information relayed through the GOES satellite is critical to our natural resource management mission and to protecting lives and property in the event of floods and fires. Continued real-time access to information provided by the U.S. Geological Services stream gauge network in Montana is critical to effective and efficient management of the state's water resources. The information is used for flood forecasting, streamflow monitoring, drought monitoring and to manage water releases from state owned reservoirs. Real-time access to weather related data is essential to our foresters battling wildfires on state-owned lands.

Given the importance of the information transmitted in this frequency band to governmental and non-governmental organizations, I urge you to carefully consider all potential impacts to current users before granting commercial wireless broadband services providers access to this portion of the radio spectrum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Sexton".

Mary Sexton  
Director